Patcnt Attorney Docket: 53951-073

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE PART 2 1 2004 APR 2 1 2004 OFFICIAL Serial No.: 10/041,949 Examiner: Patricia BIANCO Filed: January 7, 2002

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S'estems and methods for performing

blood processing and/or fluid

crichange procedures

Mail Stop No 1-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

For:

This is in response to the office action mailed March 8, 2004, for which a shortened statutory period for response expired on April 8, 2004.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

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PAGE 4/9 \* RCVD AT 4/21/2004 4:27:14 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 \* DNIS:8729306 \* CSID: \* DURATION (mm-ss):02-14